



Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

INSIDE
TRACKS

The Newsletter of Region One

Volume 7, No. 2

Spring 1997

Special Fisheries and Wildlife Mitigation Issue

Montana's Fish and Wildlife Mitigation Program

What is the purpose of the mitigation program?

Hydroelectric development at two federal dams in northwestern Montana, Libby and Hungry Horse, provide important public benefits such as an economical supply of electric power and flood control. These dams also caused a significant loss of important fish and wildlife habitats. Through the Northwest Power Act, Bonneville Power Administration is required to mitigate fish and wildlife impacts of federal hydroelectric developments;

consumers of hydroelectric power pay for mitigation.

The mitigation program seeks to reduce fish and wildlife losses caused by dam development and operation, and to replace lost fish and wildlife habitat and populations. This newsletter highlights FWP mitigation projects associated with Libby and Hungry Horse dams. Updates will be included in future issues.

How is wildlife mitigation measured?

In the past, benefits of mitigation projects were measured based on increased game populations. However, last winter, FWP changed the way they measure success of their mitigation efforts based on acres of quality wildlife habitat replaced through enhancement or conservation. According to Alan Wood, Wildlife Mitigation Coordinator for FWP, these changes were made using information collected from over 10 years of monitoring.

"We were unable to increase wildlife populations in response to our mitigation projects," said Wood, "but we were able to measure other wildlife benefits including; more food of higher quality, improved habitat structure, and increased animal use of treated areas."

This is one of several changes that FWP has made to the program over the last decade. According to Dan Vincent, Regional Supervisor for FWP in



LIBBY DAM provides power and flood control benefits to Pacific Northwest residents. Along with the benefits, however, Libby and Hungry Horse dams caused losses of fish and wildlife in the Flathead and Kootenai systems.

Kalispell, incremental changes in the program will always be needed as new information becomes available.

"We have a responsibility to the electric rate payers who fund this program to complete projects that are both biologically sound and cost effective," said Vincent.

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Habitat Improvements Aimed at Boosting Hungry Horse Elk Herd

In 1954 the then-new Hungry Horse reservoir reached full pool for the first time. But land beneath the new reservoir was once home to deer, elk, bear and other wildlife. In fact, Hungry Horse reservoir flooded some 24,000 acres of upland habitats.

Of course these acres in the South Fork valley covered many different types of habitats including upland grasslands, riparian shrublands, mixed conifer/deciduous forests, lodgepole pine forests, Douglas fir hillsides, marshes and sloughs, upland shrublands, and others. Upland shrublands are important as elk winter range. There were nearly 8,800 acres of shrublands flooded.



CLEARING AND BURNING of dense lodgepole stands in the Firefighter Mountain area are designed to provide more forage for elk.

Our job in the mitigation program is to mitigate for loss of these valuable habitats to wildlife. We can do this in a number of ways: conservation easements, land partnerships, land acquisition, and habitat enhancements are some.

One of our mitigation projects is a habitat enhancement project on Firefighter Mountain. This project aims at enhancing existing upland shrublands and creating more through timber harvest and underburning in selected thick lodgepole pine stands. The enhancement treatments on 10 natural openings and 56 timbered sites were just finished in the summer of 1996. We will be monitoring these areas closely to measure the benefits to wildlife.

Monitoring is an important part of our projects. At Firefighter we have been monitoring both the vegetation and elk. We have had about 25 to 40 elk marked to track their movements and use of differ-



THE SOUTH FORK Flathead River corridor provides important winter habitat for elk. Hungry Horse Reservoir, which reached full pool in 1954, flooded about 35 miles of river bottom habitat.

ent habitat types and treatment sites. We're also monitoring the condition of the elk, the rate of pregnancy in elk cows, and the number of elk in the herd (see sidebar). All this information will help us measure the success of the project. 🐾

Estimated number of elk on the Firefighter project area.

1990	186 elk
1991	136
1992	193
1993	106
1994	115
1995	136
1996	108

How Elk Fared in the Winter of 1996-'97

By any standard, this winter has been one for the books. Snow, lots of it, will have had its effect, and people are concerned about that effect on wildlife.

How much snow? The National Weather Service says we are over 150 percent of normal. But how much snow is there where the elk are? Elk have been staying in areas where snow depths ranged from 24 to 48 inches. Though it is not uncommon to have 30-40 inches of snow on the ground in mid-January, the winter of 96-97 is different because snow came early and is staying late. But deep snow may not be all bad. Elk don't sink all the way through, especially after the snow sets up. This allows them to reach 2-3 feet higher for food than they could were it snow-free.

Elk use different parts of their winter range when there is lots of snow. Early this winter elk moved to open-timber sites, and have been in the timber almost exclusively where snow depths are reduced—not the really thick, doghair stands, but more open, older timber. Elk

haven't used openings we created on Firefighter because snow is too deep. During more open winters elk commonly use the north part of Firefighter. This year there has been very little use of this area.

There have also been some changes in food habits. In other winters elk eat a lot of Oregon grape and Pacific yew. This year we have not seen any use of Oregon grape in the field. What we have seen is a heavy dependence on conifers and lichen, what some people call "Old Man's Beard" or "Bear Hair".

Elk appear to be toughing it out. We have not seen any winter kill of marked elk at Firefighter, though there have been other mortalities. One cow and her calf fell through the reservoir ice and died, and another was killed by a mountain lion. Elk appear in pretty good shape and the bone marrow of one that died in late March was still good.


If you would like more information about the Hungry Horse elk project, contact biologist John Vore at FWP. 🐾

Montana's Fish and Wildlife Mitigation Program

Cont. from Page 1)

The Wildlife Mitigation Advisory Committee supported this change unanimously at their meeting last fall. This 14-member committee, with representatives from the industry, government and conservation groups, was established to provide FWP with advice on mitigation activities. "We support this change," said Warren

McConkey, General Manager for Flat-head Electric Cooperative.

"I could see no negatives associated with this change," added Gail Kuntz from Bonneville Power Administration. Ken Brunner, Army Corps of Engineers said the change is beneficial because it directs more money toward project work. 

CALL US FOR A COPY OF THE WILDLIFE MITIGATION PLAN

FWP has completed a draft 5-year operating plan for the wildlife mitigation program. The plan describes the overall program and outlines general direction for the next five years. To obtain copies of the draft plan or get more information about the program, please write Alan Wood at FWP or call 758-5219.

Big Game Habitat Projects Also Help Migrant Birds

As winter breaks along Hungry Horse and Libby Reservoirs, migrant birds come back from their winter homes in Mexico and start looking for suitable nest sites. Some, like the Warbling Vireo and colorful American Redstart, will select dense shrubs along streams to hide their nests and provide the insect feast required to raise their young. Mountain Bluebirds and Tree Swallows arrive to join our more hardy woodpeckers and chickadees in searching out just the right snag to nest in. All these species will find better nesting habitat thanks to wildlife habitat enhancement efforts.

Nongame birds such as these are widely recognized as some of the best indicators of habitat quality, and inhabited all the habitats lost to the dams; some are declining in numbers. Surveys of over 120 bird species in the two project areas show that timber harvest and burning for big game can replace lost habitat values for a wide variety of wildlife. Some species are benefitted by habitat changes; others are displaced. But overall, the total number of bird species increased in most of our treatment areas.


Habitat treatments that protect snags and encourage shrub growth provide habitat for the greatest diversity of nongame birds. Fire-dependent, cavity-nesting species such as the Northern Flicker and Mountain Bluebird are first to colonize stands where dense lodgepole pine is removed, while larger larch, Douglas-fir and most snags are saved.

Among species showing declines, the Swainson's Thrush and Townsend's

Warbler primarily use mature forest or forest-interior habitats. Also showing at least initial declines are those species dependent on deciduous shrubs, such as the Black-capped Chickadee, Solitary and Warbling Vireos, and Orange-crowned Warbler. Many such species inhabited the lost riverside habitats. But harvest units apparently replace habitat values for these birds; some shrub-dependent species (e.g. Calliope Hummingbird, MacGillivray's Warbler, Lazuli Bunting) became established just 2-3 years following treatment. Sites with >30% shrub cover

showed the greatest amount of use by these birds.

The conclusion of our first 5-year monitoring effort in 1997 will include expanded nest searches to clarify the effects of habitat change on breeding success. Our data will show how best to provide replacement or re-creation of lost habitat values without compromising the habitat needs of declining species.

For more information on the migrant bird project, please contact biologist Dan Casey at FWP in Kalispell. 



THE NORTHERN FLICKER uses cavities in dead snags for nesting. Burning of dense lodgepole stands and careful snag management will benefit this bird in the project area.

Habitat Conservation Projects Help Replace Losses

PROJECTS BENEFIT RIPARIAN/WETLAND HABITATS

In general, the most productive, diverse, and often the most critical wildlife areas are those habitats found along rivers and streams. These seasonally wet areas are usually found at the lower elevations along stream banks, springs, back water channels, sloughs, marshes, and ponds. These areas support a wide variety of herbaceous, shrubby, and forested vegetation types. More than 70 percent of Montana's vertebrates also depend on riparian or wetland habitats at some time of the year. Libby and Hungry Horse dams inundated approximately 18,600 acres of these critical habitat types.

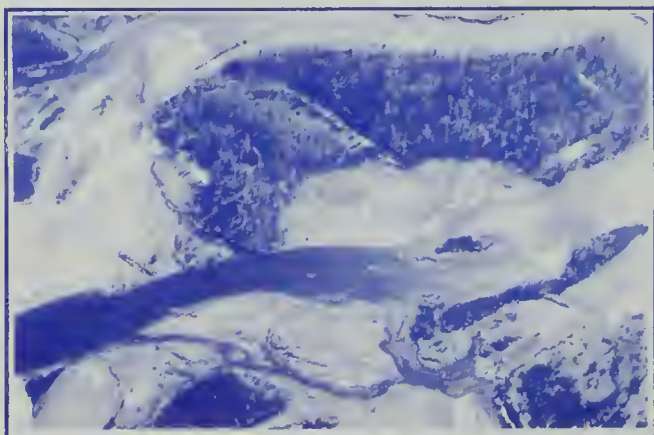
To address the riparian/wetland habitat losses, FWP found that on-site mitigation was not feasible due to extreme reservoir fluctuations and the adjacent, rugged topography. Rather, FWP established an off-site wildlife mitigation program for replacement of these habitat values.

The original program began with a goal of conserving prime wetlands within the Flathead Valley. However, an extensive public planning process re-directed that program to focus on replacing riparian and wetland values at both hydroelectric projects. FWP completed a Riparian/Wetland Conservation Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement in 1995, which evaluated alternative goals, objectives, and strategies for this program. The Riparian/Wetland Conservation Implementation Plan was subsequently completed in 1996. Since 1995, FWP has pursued 9 different riparian/wetland conservation projects which entail either a direct purchase, conservation easement or lease in northwest Montana. Three have gone or are going through public review (see below): 1. Coriell (73 acre purchase of island, Flathead River); 2. Cramer (233 acre conservation easement, Bull River); 3. Morris (40 acre purchase, Flathead River). We are hoping to complete these transactions in the near future. One project was dropped and the remaining five are still being actively pursued. In addition, FWP has completed six partnership projects with private land trusts (primarily riparian/wetland projects) (see article below).

IS THERE ANOTHER ISLAND IN OUR FUTURE?

One of the Riparian/Wetland projects which FWP is pursuing is purchase of a portion Morris Island (40 acres of 58 acres total) located in the Flathead River just above its confluence with the Stillwater River. The Department of

FWP plans to purchase a portion of Morris Island (top center) to add to managed riparian wildlife habitat in the Flathead River corridor.



Natural Resources recently cleared any claim to title of this island. The remaining 18 acres is part of an ongoing land exchange between the Forest Service and FWP. The island was at some risk for commercial timber harvest or private recreational development. Public comment on the draft EA, management plan, and socio-economic assessment will be accepted until May 8, 1997. For more information, contact Gael Bissell at 751-4580 or Noemi Barta at 751-4579 at FWP, 490 North Meridian Rd., Kalispell, MT 59901.

PARTNERS ARE THE KEY

FWP has completed six partnership projects with private land trusts since July 1995. These projects consist of conservation easement donations by private landowners to private land trusts. FWP role has been to contribute to fixed project costs of these projects. Fixed costs include appraisals, baseline inventories, and mineral remoteness tests. Combined, these projects conserved 519 acres (199 riparian/wetland and 320 upland forest) within northwest Montana. Our total costs were \$21,608 for 260 acres of mitigation credit or \$83.27/acre of mitigation. Many similar projects are underway for 1997. Habitat Conservation Biologist Gael Bissell believes that through partnerships with private land trusts, our wildlife mitigation program can assist in conserving more acres faster and more efficiently than through our direct purchase of other conservation easements.

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Stream Improvements Benefit Native Trout

Four stream improvement projects aimed at improving habitat for native westslope cutthroat trout are beginning to show results. The projects are part of the Hungry Horse Mitigation project, funded by the Bonneville Power Administration.

At Elliot Spring Creek near Bigfork and Taylor Spring Creek near Columbia Falls, FWP biologists are planting cutthroat and improving habitat to tip the scales away from introduced brook trout to favor native westslope cutthroat. Monitoring results at Elliot Spring Creek from 1993 to 1996 show that the native trout are gaining a foothold. In the 1996 sampling cutthroat increased to 15 percent of the population in the creek. That compares to 0 percent of the population before the project began. In addition, cutthroat used a spawning channel created in the stream.

At Taylor Spring Creek, biologists built a fish ladder to allow cutthroat to access the creek from the Flathead River. They also improved holding and spawning areas, and added fish cover in the creek upstream. The stream-side corridor was fenced to keep live-

stock out of the channel except at stock watering sites. Already this winter and spring, cutthroat have migrated over the fish ladder and biologists hope the native fish will use the improved stream sections.

Along Hungry Horse Reservoir, projects in seven streams blocked by road culverts will open 16 percent more stream habitat for spawning cutthroat living in Hungry Horse Reservoir. Projects included replacing some culverts and installing baffles to break rapid waterflows in others. Already, cutthroat are using the newly opened stream habitat. In Murray, Margaret, McInernie, and North Logan creeks, only 7 cutthroat spawning nests were found below the culverts while 63 nests were found in the newly accessible stream above the culverts. No nests were found above the culverts in Felix and Harris creeks; these culverts will be replaced in 1997. The additional spawning and nursery area will result in more adult cutthroat in the reservoir.

At Hay Creek in the North Fork Flathead Drainage, a project resulted in increased flows for fish. Biologists and engineers modified the stream to conserve water flow and allow the

stream to reach the North Fork. In most years, not enough water was reaching the river in the fall to allow migration of bull trout upstream into Hay Creek and trout were being stranded in pools and dieing. In the fall of 1994, the stream had no flow in this section. After the improvements, fall flows in lower Hay Creek increased to 7 cubic feet per second in 1995, and 18 cubic feet per second in 1996. Increased flows in Hay Creek will allow greater access to habitat for westslope cutthroat and bull trout.

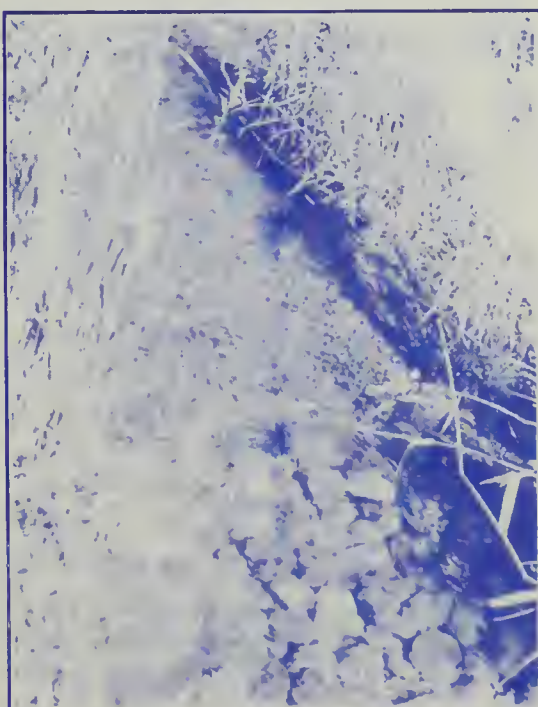
All of these projects are part of the Northwest Power Planning Council's fish and wildlife mitigation program for fish losses caused by Hungry Horse Dam. FWP cooperated with a host of agencies and private individuals to accomplish the work, including:

Landowners: George Darrow, Dick Taylor, Dan Hendrick, Sue Wilkinson, Mike Kessler, Ron and Peggy Olson.

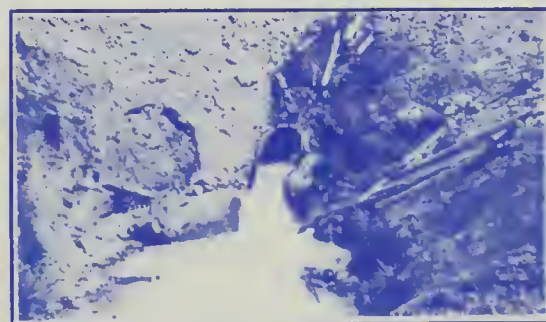
Agencies: U. S. Bureau of Reclamation, Bonneville Power Administration, U. S. Forest Service, Flathead Basin Commission, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's Bring Back the Natives Program. 🐟



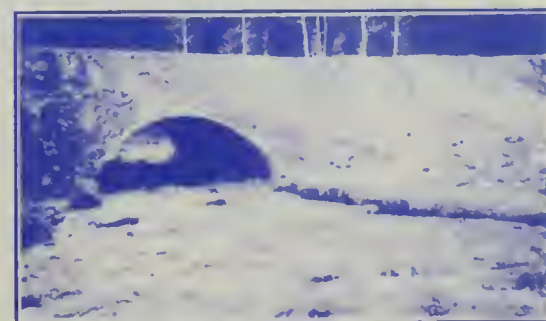
AT TAYLOR SPRING CREEK a fish ladder (above) provides access for Flathead River fish to the improved stream sections upstream (below).



IN ELLIOT SPRING CREEK silty stream bottoms were converted to gravel spawning beds for westslope cutthroat trout



STREAM CULVERTS along Hungry Horse Reservoir for decades blocked westslope cutthroat from spawning areas in streams like Felix Creek (above). Major culvert replacement projects like the one completed on Margaret Creek (below) allow the fish to access the stream for spawning and rearing. The Felix Creek culvert is scheduled to be replaced this summer.



Rehabilitations Offer Immediate Fishery Results

A major objective of the fish mitigation program is to create or improve fisheries in lakes not directly connected to the Flathead River system. Biologists rehabilitate the lakes by poisoning the waters with rotenone, an organic fish toxicant, then replant the lakes with westslope cutthroat or other game fish. While stream habitat projects offer long-term benefits to the fisheries, results take time. These lake projects offer immediate benefits for anglers.

More than 50 lakes in the Flathead Basin have been impacted by illegal fish introductions. In some cases, perch and other introduced fish eliminated popular trout fisheries. These illegal introductions cost thousands of dollars in public funds (electric ratepayer dollars and fishing/hunting license dollars) to correct. The lake rehabilitation program focuses on lakes which have suffered from illegal introductions.

Lion Lake: A few decades ago, Lion Lake near Hungry Horse Reservoir supported a popular rainbow and cutthroat trout fishery. By 1992, because of illegal introductions of pumpkin seed, sunfish, perch, and pike (which became stunted) few trout remained.

In 1992, biologists rotenoned the lake at a cost of \$15,000. Cutthroat trout were restocked into the lake in the spring of 1993; cutthroat and rainbow trout have been added each year since. Results of the rehabilitation have been striking.

Fishing pressure at Lion Lake increased from 48 angler-days in 1991, to 3,304 angler days in 1995. The lake now ranks **first** among 509 lakes in northwest Montana in angler pressure per acre and twelfth in total angling pressure.

Although Lion Lake has been a success story, perch have again showed up in sampling there in 1996. Biologists believe that they achieved a complete fish kill in 1992, and that perch have been illegally introduced after the rehabilitation. At this point, trout stocking rates have maintained a good fishery for rainbow and cutthroat.

Bootjack Lake: Last October, biologists rotenoned Bootjack Lake near Whitefish to remove a large, stunted population of pumpkinseed sunfish. During the 1980s, prior

spawning channel in Bootjack Creek, a tributary to the lake. The spawning channel will provide clean gravels for the spring spawning trout. The channel was built by members of the Flathead Chapter of Trout Unlimited with the support of the Sportsman and Ski Haus sporting goods store in Kalispell.

Rogers Lake: Prior to an illegal introduction of perch, Rogers Lake was the premier grayling fishery in Northwest Montana. But introduced perch gobbled young grayling in the lake, and eventually the grayling population disappeared. Now after a successful rehabilitation project, the lake has regained its status as a popular grayling fishery.

FWP biologists, in cooperation with the Forest Service and National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, treated the lake with rotenone in 1993 to remove perch, eastern brook trout,



FISHERIES WORKERS Jon Cavigli and Gary Anderson apply rotenone, a fish toxicant, to remove stunted perch and pike from Lion Lake near Hungry Horse.

and reidside shiners. Young arctic grayling and westslope cutthroat trout were re-introduced in 1994 and have done extremely well.

Arctic grayling stocked in the lake at one-inch reached 14 inches in just two years and mounted a strong spawning run into the Rogers Lake inlet in 1996. More than 1,000 spawning grayling were counted. Thanks to a cooperative project with a local eagle scout group, these grayling had improved spawning habitat to use in the inlet. Streambanks were stabilized and more spawning gravels were added. Biologists believe the grayling fishery will be self-sustaining and require no further stocking as long as no more illegal introductions occur.

Future Plans: Biologists are planning to rehabilitate two more lakes in the future. Hubbart Reservoir west of Kalispell has supported strong trout and salmon fisheries in the past prior to illegal introductions of perch. The lake should provide excellent fishing again after rehabilitation. Murray Lake north of Whitefish is also on the rehabilitation to-do list.

If you have ideas about lake rehabilitation or if you want to get involved, call Ladd Knotek at FWP in Kalispell. ☎



ICE STOCKING. Warden Perry Brown helps stock rainbow trout through the ice in Lion Lake last January. Stocking has maintained a good fishery for rainbow and cutthroat.

to illegal fish introductions, anglers enjoyed a trophy trout fishery. The fishery had declined in the 1990s to a point where anglers caught few trout but lots of little sunfish.

The lake will be restocked with westslope cutthroat and rainbow trout this spring and annually thereafter. Special fishing regulations at the lake protect smaller trout until they reach trophy size.

Earlier, volunteers and biologists built a 100-foot long

The Libby/Hungry Horse Wildlife Mitigation Program

In 1980, Congress passed the Pacific Northwest Electric Power Planning and Conservation Act. This law called for the creation of the Northwest Power Planning Council and directed them to develop, among other things, a program to “protect, mitigate and enhance fish and wildlife affected by the development, operation and management” of the Federal Hydro-power system in the Columbia River Basin. This work is funded by Bonneville Power Administration using money paid by consumers of hydro-electric power.

FWP documented wildlife losses at Libby and Hungry Horse dams in 1984 and developed a plan to mitigate those losses in 1985. These plans were revised and finally adopted in the Power Planning Council’s 1987 Fish and Wildlife Mitigation Program.

In 1988, FWP and the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) negotiated a settlement agreement which established a Wildlife Mitigation Trust Fund and gave FWP the responsibility to complete wildlife mitigation for the two hydroelectric project areas. Between 1989 and 1994, BPA completed their contributions of 12.5 million dollars to the Wildlife Mitigation Trust Fund. They also granted FWP another



***HUNGRY HORSE DAM**, along with Libby Dam, provides about 40 percent of the U.S. Columbia system’s water storage. A selective withdrawal system (top right) was installed as part of the mitigation program. The system corrects water temperature in the Flathead River system downstream.*

\$500,000 for a special wetlands project. The Trust Fund balance, with accrued interest, stands at approximately \$14 million.

Over 52,000 acres of wildlife habitat were inundated by Libby and Hungry Horse dams, consisting of roughly 32,000 acres of coniferous forest; 18,600 acres of riparian/wetlands; 1,600 acres of palouse prairie. FWP began implementing habitat projects to address these losses as early as 1984. To date, we have mitigated the equivalent of 8,050 acres of wildlife habitat (5,459 coniferous forest; 1,111 acres of riparian/wetlands; and 1,481 acres of palouse prairie in northwest Montana.

The Wildlife Mitigation Program represents a major opportunity for wildlife and the people of northwest Montana. The goal of this program is to replace wildlife and wildlife habitat values lost as a result of construction of Libby and Hungry Horse Dams, and to ensure such replacement into the future.

FWP has accepted the responsibility of mitigating for the impacts of these two federal, hydroelectric facilities. The program offers a secure funding source and an opportunity to perpetuate and enhance wildlife populations in this region of the state, for the benefit of residents and visitors to the northwest. 🐾

Fisheries Improvements Advance in Kootenai System

Restoring fishable populations of native trout to area streams and lake Koocanusa has been a focus of the Libby Reservoir Fisheries Mitigation Program over the last two years. Project biologists have also been conducting groundbreaking research on how to best conserve the native burbot (ling) fishery in the reservoir and the Kootenai River above Libby Dam.

FWP has been working cooperatively with landowners and public agencies that hold property adjacent to historically important native trout fisheries in tributary streams to Lake Koocanusa. The work identified why there has been such a drastic decline in populations of native trout, particularly native westslope cutthroat trout.

Where habitat has been degraded and can no longer support essential portions of the life cycles of the native trout, crews have worked with landowners and agencies to repair the damage to the stream habitat and gain long-term commitments from the participants and local communities to preserve and protect the restored fishery. Crews have

been testing and improving innovative techniques to reintroduce native cutthroat to streams in the Tobacco River and Young Creek drainages of the Kootenai system.

One such technique being tested is designed to key in on the trout’s homing instinct. Project technicians have been testing the use of remote site egg incubators that use small “plastic bucket” sized, artificial spawning nests that incubate trout eggs and release fry directly into restored streams. The fish emerge from their incubators after they absorb their yoke sac when they immediately begin to feed on native food. The incubators use water directly from the creek where the trout fry are released. Therefore, the fish are “imprinted” to that creek.

This “imprinting” is important because when the fish become sexually mature, it is hoped they will return to the stream where they were hatched and reared. If successful, this project will allow biologists the ability to reestablish self-reproducing fishable stocks of native fish to many of the streams that no longer support good trout fishing. 🐾

Kootenai River Fish Habitat Model Completed; Other Work Planned

One of the major accomplishments in Montana's fisheries mitigation program has been completion of a major fish habitat model for the Kootenai River.

FWP biologists have measured fisheries habitat in the Kootenai River at various discharges from Libby Dam. This project places the Kootenai River among only a handful of rivers of this size throughout the world which have successfully completed a project of this magnitude.

This study required that roughly 150 transects be established across the Kootenai River from Libby Dam to Kootenay Lake in British Columbia. Each transect required that measurements be taken of the river bottom all the way across the river as well as the water surface elevations at various discharges.

Then, the fish were counted along

each transect using SCUBA and measurements such as water depth, velocity and substrate conditions were measured at the site of each fish. Ultimately, these measurements provide the data allowing for the estimation of how much fish habitat exists (by species) at different discharges from Libby Dam.


The potential benefits of this model range from the ability to quantify changes to fish habitat over time due to operations (e.g. loss of side channels) to determining the physical habitat requirements of juvenile white sturgeon in Montana.

The primary utility will be to provide fisheries data to the operation agencies as well as downstream interests. So now that this project and others in the Libby Dam Mitigation Program are almost done, what's next?

FWP Research into the losses of

fisheries due to construction and operations of Libby Dam have been quantified and incorporated into a formal document which will soon be presented to the Northwest Power Planning Council for review.

The public scoping process has been completed with numerous meetings in Eureka and Libby, Montana, throughout 1995 and 1996. Furthermore, the crews have spent untold hours identifying projects targeted at improving fish habitat in the Kootenai Basin for many years.

They have maintained lists of these projects while informally ranking them based on their potential benefits to the fish. The net result is a very comprehensive and well planned project whose specific objectives are to improve habitat for native species in the Kootenai Basin. 

Coming in the next Inside Tracks: Special Issue on Flathead Lake Fisheries Management



For more information on Fish, Wildlife & Parks issues, listen to:
"Northwest Outdoors,"
FWP's weekly radio show, Thursdays at 8:35 a.m.
on KGEZ, 600 AM.

INSIDE TRACKS is published by Region One



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